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HOLMES SELECTED AS 2011 OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Corrections Officer Jacqueline Holmes of Thumb Correctional Facility for being selected as the 2011 Michigan Corrections Officer of the Year. Holmes and the four other finalists - Roy Doades of Woodland Center Correctional Facility, Vicky Hastay of Cooper Street Correctional Facility, Brock Simmons of Michigan Reformatory, and Richard Warnack of Macomb Correctional Facility - all interviewed on February 9 in front of members of the Michigan Corrections Officers' Training Council.



Officer Holmes, the five finalists, and all of the officers selected to represent their facility as the 2011 officer of the year representative will be honored at the Michigan Corrections Officer of the Year Banquet on Wednesday, May 4, 2011. The banquet, jointly held by the Michigan Department of Corrections and the Michigan Corrections Organization, is a great venue to recognize the efforts and achievements of Michigan's corrections officers.

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2011 MICHIGAN CORRECTIONS OFFICER OF THE YEAR JACQUELINE HOLMES THUMB CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Officer Jacqueline Holmes is excited about the opportunity to represent the Michigan Department of Corrections and her fellow officers as the 2011 Corrections Officer of the Year. The committee was equally excited to select her. They were impressed with Officer Holmes' attitude and activities both in the workplace and in the community. Holmes un-

OFFICER OF THE YEAR (Continued on page 2)



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OFFICER OF THE YEAR (Continued from page 1)

derstands her role as the Officer of the Year will require her to speak at various events in support of the Department and she is up to the task. She is looking forward to meeting each of the other facility officers of the year at the May banquet and recognizing their efforts to be the best. She

has not yet thought of what she will say as she accepts the honor, but her calm demeanor and a “get it done” attitude will serve her well as she graciously accepts the recognition as Michigan’s 2011 Officer of the Year. If you know Officer Holmes, please extend your congratulations. It is a well-deserved honor.

GOVERNOR SNYDER STREAMLINES PAROLE BOARD

Governor Rick Snyder recently signed an executive order reorganizing the Parole Board. The move is aimed at streamlining government and allowing more efficient implementation of corrections policies by the department director.

Executive Order 2011-3 abolishes the Parole and Commutation Board and Executive Clemency Advisory Council, both of which were created under former Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, and creates a new Michigan Parole Board within the Department of Corrections. The new board will return to the 10-member structure outlined in state law as opposed to the 15-member structure of the current board. Members serving on the parole board will be appointed by the corrections department director instead of by the governor.

“We need to let the professionals in the corrections department determine whether it’s appropriate to release prisoners,” Snyder said. “This change will remove an unneeded layer of bureaucracy and save taxpayers money.”

Executive Order 2011-3 takes effect April 15.

MI-GOAL CELEBRATES 1ST ANNIVERSARY

MI-GOAL, the Michigan Gay Officer’s Action League, celebrated their first anniversary recently. The association exists to advocate for the equal treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) public safety and criminal justice professionals, and their allies. Some core values include:

- fostering, representing and promoting a positive, professional image;
- Instilling in its members a high sense of loyalty and responsibility to each other and to their service within and among the professions; and
- Demonstrating the highest ethical values, through the conduct and associations of its members and the organization;



While MI-GOAL desires to be a positive influence within the LGBT community, it also expects to be instrumental in changing homophobic attitudes and preventing harassment in the workplace and in the community at large. For more information, visit www.mi-goal.com.

PENNSYLVANIA TO CANCEL PRISON CONTRACT

On February 16, 2011, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania notified the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) that it was terminating its contract to house prisoners in Muskegon Correctional Facility. Because of improvements to overcrowding conditions in the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (PDOC), the PDOC is able to house the prisoners within the PDOC. The ter-

mination gives PDOC and our Department 180 days to move Pennsylvania prisoners back to their prison system. PDOC has been impressed with the level of professionalism of Michigan's corrections employees and with their ability to meet transportation requirements.

More information on this contract termination will be forthcoming as details are identified.

MCA TO HOLD SEMINAR AT CABELA'S

The Michigan Corrections Association (MCA) will hold a spring training seminar on March 25, 2011 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at Cabela's Outfitters in Dundee, MI. Topic experts will discuss less-than-lethal alternatives for controlling non-compliant behavior. There will also be product demonstrations and vendor exhibits. For more information on the program and to register, please visit www.micorrections.org and click on the calendar.



Cost for the seminar is \$35 for members, \$45 for non-members and \$20 for students with a current student ID. A previous MCA program held at Cabela's sold out quickly so please register soon. For more information, please contact John Cordell at john.cordell@micorrections.org.

NAAWS CONFERENCE IN LOUISIANA

The North American Association of Wardens and Superintendents (NAAWS) is having its annual conference in Baton Rouge, Louisiana April 16-20, 2011. A major attraction for this conference is the Angola Prison Rodeo, featuring prisoner cowboys who participate in the rodeo. Lieutenant General (ret.) Russel Honore will speak about his many leadership efforts including helping with relief efforts around the globe.



Wardens and facility administrators throughout the United States will be attending this conference, which focuses on correctional mental health, operating safe prisons, re-entry policy, community relations, and ethics in corrections. For more information and to register, please contact Louisiana Asst. Warden Cathy Fontenot at (225) 200-2022 or e-mail cathy-fontenot@corrections.state.la.us. You can also visit: www.corrections.com/naaws.

CFA AND FOA APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

The Department recently addressed several vacancies that occurred as a result of the early retirements throughout the MDOC. The following Warden assignments will take effect February 20, 2011.

In the Correctional Facilities Administration:

- Warden Sherry L. Burt will be reassigned from the Parnall Correctional Facility to the Cooper Street Correctional and Special Alternative Incarceration facilities.
- Warden Paul Klee will be reassigned from the Cooper Street Correctional and Special Alternative Incarceration facilities to the Gus Harrison Correctional Facility.
- Warden Debra Scutt will remain Warden for the G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility and be assigned as Warden of the Parnall Correctional Facility.

Also, the following Field Operations Administration (FOA) assignments will take effect February 20, 2011.

In the Field Operations Metro Region:

- Beverly Smith is appointed Deputy Regional Administrator.
- William Rogers is appointed Area Manager, Lawton Area

In the Field Operations Outstate Region:

- Laura Young is appointed Regional Administrator
- James Blakley is appointed Deputy Regional Administrator
- Denise Allsberry is appointed Deputy Regional Administrator
- Omar Alston is appointed Area Manager, Grand Rapids Area
- Doug Kamphuis is appointed Area Manager, Muskegon Area
- Deb Quinlan is appointed Area Manager, Flint Area
- Russ Cilibrise is appointed Area Manager, Gaylord Area
- Marianne Samper is appointed Administrative Assistant to the FOA Deputy Director

In Office of Parole and Probation Services Administration:

- Denise Allsberry is appointed acting Administrator. Warren Wilson will be the acting Deputy Regional Administrator while Denise is acting in this position.

Please congratulate each of these employees on their new assignment!



FIELD REPORT: WHAT'S GOING ON IN FOA

ICAC AGENTS ENSURE COMPLIANCE

Training

October 6, 2010, Lansing Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Agent Richard Gallagher and ICAC Agent Leonard Attar conducted a Field Search refresher at the Ann Arbor Parole Office. There were several agents in attendance as well as Supervisor Tanze Tabb. The training went well and the agents were given the opportunity to ask questions regarding field search. Agents Gallagher and Attar offered their direct contact information and made themselves available to the participants for possible future questions.



ICAC Agent Attar attended training at Paraben's Forensic Innovative Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah November 5-10, 2010. The focus of the training conference was largely on processing data retrieved from both digital cellular and other mobile devices. This training provided instruction on how to seize or confiscate cell phones, iPods, or other hand held digital devices during parolee or probation home visits to check for contraband or other incriminating digital evidence. Due to the prevalence of mobile computing, the training assisted in providing information on how to process these items forensically.

Compliance Checks

On October 29, 2010 ICAC Agent Attar was contacted and requested to participate in Compliance Checks (Halloween) in Oakland County. Compliance Checks were conducted in Pontiac, Oak Park, Hazel Park, Ferndale, Madison Heights, Troy, Southfield, Farmington, and Farmington Hills. Participants included (4) MSP Troopers and (5) Agents from Parole and ICAC

support. Three teams were dispersed amongst the nine targeted cities.

Agent James Buescher from Lawton Parole and ICAC Agent Attar conducted a home call to the residence of an offender. During the home call ICAC Agent Attar conducted a preview of the offender's laptop computer while Agent

Buescher and the offender were discussing the guidelines for computer use (WORK AND SCHOOL ONLY). During this time it was discovered that Facebook, MySpace, and Craig's List were being utilized by the offender. After a thorough search of the offender's

area of control, agents seized the computer and departed from the residence. ICAC Agent Attar took the laptop back to the ICAC lab where the laptop was forensically analyzed by new ICAC team member Mitch Brown from the Flint Police Department. On the device Brown discovered in the unallocated space (deleted space), 150 digital images of pornography. In addition, it was discovered that the offender took pictures personal pictures with digital camera and uploaded them to the Internet. Furthermore, in the unallocated space, the offender had been conducting sexual social networking. The offender was taken into custody.



PRISONERS AND PUPPIES BENEFIT FROM MI-PAWS DOG PROGRAM

The purpose of the MI-PAWS dog program at the Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility is to help local non-profit rescue groups by fostering dogs in need of training in order to make them more readily adoptable. Prisoner dog handlers learn how to train and care for dogs including veterinary needs, training methods, grooming requirements of various breeds, etc. In this way, prisoners give back to the community and also gain skills which may provide additional employment/volunteer opportunities when the prisoners return home.

What type of dogs participate?

A combination of breeds and mixes of breeds is utilized. Dogs with aggressive temperaments are not accepted into the program. All dogs arrive completely vetted (micro-chipped, neutered/spayed if old enough, up to date on all shots, heartworm negative and on heartworm and flea preventative, etc.) with collars and leads, ready to learn and be trained.

How much does the program cost?

The cost of initial supplies (crates, bowls, toys, etc.), veterinary first aid kit, etc., and on-going costs of potential veterinary care, dog food and training treats are borne by the rescue groups. **Who is eligible to participate?**

Prisoners who have been misconduct free for at least one year, who are at least 2 years from their earliest release date (ERD), who have earned their GED or equivalent, and who do not have a history of animal or child abuse, neglect, or abandonment are eligible to apply. Priority is given to those applicants with dog experience. However, motivated and interested individuals without dog experience will be considered as well.

What is necessary to become a prisoner dog handler?

The dog handler must agree to follow the rules of the dog program completely, must release the rescue group(s) from any liability associated with handling a dog from them, must agree to be responsible for cleaning up after the dog at all times, and must use only those training methods authorized and approved by the dog program. Handlers must continue to pursue

learning opportunities in the area of dog training, grooming and care and must also accept that handlers may have to change housing arrangements and that they can be removed from the program at any time, for any reason.

How does the program operate?

Dogs are delivered to the prison on a set schedule and graduate on a set schedule. In a perfect world, the graduated dogs leave one day and new dogs arrive the same or next day; however, flexibility will be required as the program matures. Prisoner dog handlers are responsible for training the dogs in basic obedience (sit, stay, come, down, off, walking nicely on leash, etc.), as well as house training the dogs, crate training, grooming, and socializing the dogs.

The dogs accompany their trainers to many areas of the prison but not all areas. Training methods used are rewards-based and motivational. Training provided to dog handlers is provided by skilled dog trainers and it is anticipated that as the program fully matures and prisoners are trained as dog handlers, the program will operate with minimal outside assistance.



Prisoner handlers maintain a training journal for each dog that they train, detailing the dog's temperament, likes/dislikes, and progress in training. These journals help form the foundation for the rescue group's evaluation of potential adopters for a good "fit" and may be used in developing the dog's adoption posting on www.petfinder.org. The Humane Society of Huron Valley: <http://www.hshv.org/MIPAWSDogTrainingProgram.htm> provides a direct link and some information about dogs currently in the program who can soon be adopted.



DEPARTMENT RECEIVES TOP HONORS AT LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN CONFERENCE



Expanding on a previous F.Y.I. article, the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) took home top honors at the 2011 Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) Conference January 13 at the Grand Traverse Resort & Spa near Traverse City. MDOC was the recipient of nine awards including the top five fundraising facilities and three prestigious volunteer awards.

Carl White from Florence Crane Correctional Facility and his wife Carla White from Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center (RGC) were the recipients of the 2010 Director's Award. The award recognizes these volunteers for their continued support of LETR and Special Olympics Michigan. Carla also received the Circle of Honor Award, which honors a volunteer with at least 10 years of involvement.

In 2010, MDOC raised more than \$49,000 for LETR through countless fund-raisers. The top five fund-raising facilities for 2010 include:

- MDOC Ernest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
- MDOC Coldwater (Lakeland and Florence Crane correctional facilities)
- MDOC Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
- MDOC Marquette Branch Prison
- MDOC Alger Correctional Facility

"Athletes look up to these individuals as heroes," said Andrea Rachko, Special Olympics Michigan LETR Liaison & Development Manager. "We look forward to

the future commitment of the MDOC."

The conference was held to honor the efforts of top fundraisers from the Michigan Department of Corrections, Michigan State Police, and Fraternal Order of Police in 2010 and to kick off the 2011 fundraising season. The conference is hosted by the Michigan Corrections Organization.

Carl White began his involvement with Special Olympics Michigan in 1996 by participating in local runs in Coldwater, Mich. His wife Carla became a chaperone and coach for the 2001 State Winter games and since then both have stayed active in many Special Olympics Michigan Torch Run events.

Both Carl and Carla present medals to athletes during the State Summer and Winter Games, and interact with the athletes at both events.

"Carl and Carla's continued support is greatly appreciated. Their dedication to Torch Run and the athletes at Special Olympics Michigan is breathtaking," said Rachko, "the smiles on the White's faces when interacting with athletes is heartwarming."

Carl and Carla organize a fund-raising motorcycle ride every July. This year's event will be held on July 23, 2011 starting at Planet PowerSports in Coldwater. In 2010, Jeremy Zaborny, a Corrections Medical Unit Officer from RGC, and his wife held their first big event - a fire truck pull held in the Jackson area. This event collected more than \$6,000 for Special Olympics Michigan athletes. It consisted of teams of 12, with one member being a

SPECIAL OLYMPICS (Continued on page 8)

PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN HEALTH OFFERS 8TH ANNUAL WINTER WARM-UP



SPECIAL OLYMPICS (Continued from page 7)

Special Olympics Michigan athlete.

"The Zaborneys have gone above and beyond as team captains," said Rachko. "I look forward to seeing what their dedication brings in the future."

"Torch Run is looking for more individuals like the four we have highlighted," Rachko said. "The first interaction you have with Torch Run will not be your last, one hug from an athlete and you will be hooked."

For more ways of how to get involved with LETR or Special Olympics Michigan, please visit www.somi.org.



Michigan Corrections Organization and Michigan Department of Corrections employees celebrate the successful partnership with Special Olympics Michigan.

POLAR PLUNGE RAISES BIG \$\$ FOR SOMI

The 2011 Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Michigan (SOMI) at the Clifford Lake Inn in Stanton raised over \$25,000 for the athletes of Special Olympics Michigan



with 107 brave men, women, and children that collected donations from local business, co-workers, friends, and family for their effort of taking the plunge in the icy waters of Clifford Lake on February 12, 2011. The sun was out and the temperature was above freezing as hundreds of spectators and volunteers watched crazy costume plungers jump into Clifford Lake. A crowd favorite was the Ionia Complex Emergency Response Team (ERT), who was recognized with awards for the "Best Plunge" and "most money raised by a correctional facility." ERT members Aimee Rogers (dressed as a prisoner), Pat Nielsen, Steve Pettit, Aaron Patrick, Jeremy LaBelle, Dennis Cassel, and Bill Patton performed a mock cell extraction of a prisoner as part of their plunge, raising over \$5,000 for Special Olympics Michigan.

The Department of Corrections accounted for over half of the funds raised at the plunge with the combined contributions from the Ionia prison complex, St. Louis correctional facilities and Carson City Correctional Facility. To find one of this year's 19 remaining Polar Plunges, please visit the Michigan Special Olympics Web site at www.somi.org.



PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE